

PRODUCTION AT KOW TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH

By late next month the Kankakee Ordnance works unit of the Joliet Arsenal, along with 16 other wartime army ordnance plants, may begin turning out fertilizer to step up food production in American occupied areas of Europe and Asia, it was reported in Washington today.

Conversion of the KOW plant from a TNT producing unit to ammonium nitrate manufacturing started this month in accordance with an inter-departmental agreement announced in June by Under Secretary of War Kenneth C. Royall.

According to Col. Carroll Hudson, new commanding officer of the Joliet Arsenal, it had been hoped that production at KOW would start the first week in September. However, due to a late start in construction work it is now indefinite when actual production will begin, he said.

THE WAR department, according to the Associated Press, announced today that nine commercial concerns have been given contracts to convert and manage 15 of the plants and that two additional plants will figure in the arrangement. At full blast, around the end of the year, they will have an estimated combined monthly output of 70,000 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer. Government food experts figure this will add 10,000,000 bushels to world wheat production, or enough to meet the monthly grain requirements of more than 20,000,000 people.

The E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Company, of Wilmington, Del., former operator of KOW during the war, has been assigned the contract to convert and operate the Joliet KOW unit and Indiana Arsenal, at Charlestown, Ind., for production of ammonium nitrate liquor and nitric acid.

Other contracts for the conversion and operation of plants to produce basic ingredients of the fertilizer include:

Liberty Powder company, East Alton, Ill., to convert and operate Holston Ordnance Works, Kingsport, Tenn., to produce ammonium nitrate liquor and nitric acid.

Silas Mason company, New York City, named architect-engineer and operator for Milan Arsenal, Milan, Tenn.; Savanna Ordnance Depot, Savanna, Ill.; Ravenna Arsenal, Apco, O., and Illinois Ordnance Plant, Carbondale, Ill.